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Making the Most of Leisure.

The moment a young man ceases to think of his lack of opportunities, resolutely looks his conditions in the face, and resolves to change them, he lays the corner stone of a solid career. Even if he must go slow, he will go for. Such a young man, thirty years ago, suddenly discovered that by using in study, in an orderly way, the quarter and half hours he spent on railroad trains and ferryboats, these odds and ends of time might be made of untold value. By putting them together he managed to pick out of them a fine education. To utilize these precious hours and make them as valuable as if they formed a continuous period of time, he made a plan for the work of each day and had such material on hand that he could turn every quarter of an hour to account.

This young man wanted to know German. He bought a German grammar, a phrase-book, and a few simple German stories. He would keep a book in his pocket and glance at it at every opportunity. In a little while it became very interesting. He was soon reading easy German, and in less than a year he had the language so well in hand that he took up Spanish. He became engrossed in the study of languages as an occupation for his leisure. He found it extremely enjoyable. Every language learned was an open door to advanced studies. In a few years he was reading German, French, Spanish, and Italian fluently and with keen enjoyment. In meantime his business advancement had been rapid. His studies had not only given him an education but had also helped him to advance in practical affairs by clearing, sharpening and training his mind.

A clear understanding of the possibilities which live in spare time is a prominent quality of the man who does things. He wastes no time in dreaming of what he would do if he could go to college or travel or have command of long periods of interrupted time. He is not guilty of evading the possibilities of his career by shielding himself behind adverse conditions.

Thousands in our country have become highly cultivated men and women by utilizing odds and ends of time. They have opened wider the door of opportunity, broadened their outlook on life, and entered new worlds of science, literature and art—worlds which are barred to the ignorant.

Wisdom will not open her door to those who are not willing to pay the price of admission. She will not sell her jewels for money, but will give them to every poor boy or girl who yearns and works for her.

THE KILKENNY CATS.

According to the veracious satire of Dean Swift, it seems that one day two cats, urged on by a malevolent and violent spirit, ate each other up, leaving nothing but their tails. There never has been a more exhaustive treatment of any subject, anatomical or literary.

We may ask ourselves how it was possible. There are physical laws denying it. After they had eaten each other's teeth what had either left to eat with? And how could each be stowed in the other's stomach at the same time?

Nevertheless, we must concede the possibility of the event and accept the historical accuracy of the account. But why go so far as Kilkenny when anyone may witness like incidents right at home?

Two women fall out and resort to slander. Each produces to the public gaze all the frailties of the other; their acquaintances complacently accept what each one says, and in the end both characters are annihilated. Exeunt Kilkenny cats!

Two men go to law over something. They retain counsel, enter complaints, subpoena witnesses, empanel juries, hear verdicts, make appeals, multiply costs. Adjourment after adjournment, vexation after vexation, business neglected, patience exhausted, years wasted, and on both sides the last dollar spent. The cats have interlocked their claws, clashed each other's teeth, opened each other's jaws, and gulped down each other's all. Extermination is more complete than that at Kilkenny.

Yes, it is sad but true that all around us, in a thousand ways, divinely gifted human beings are eating one another up. And not always is so much as a caudal appendage left!

ANGELS.

"It has always been a matter of surprise to me that great artists, in painting angels have always represented them as women, and that in painting devils they have always represented them as men."

"It may be human nature for women to be angelic, but that does not argue that men are naturally devilish."

"Again. Why should an artist give wings to an angel? Surely wings are not essential for the flight of a spirit, i. e., I do not think they are."

"If angels have wings, and if angels can communicate with their earthly friends, this world would not have been so long in darkness concerning the making of those appendages. No, indeed! Some Yankee angel—possibly a Darius Green—would have imparted his knowledge long before now, and the wing question, or man-flight, would have been settled, while some Yankee brother or other friend of the angel would have a monopoly on wings."

Criticising Other People's Happiness.

One man's meat is another man's poison" does not sound like a very important proverb, but I often wish most heartily that more of us could get the gist of it into our attitude toward life.

For there are a great many people in the world who continually disturb themselves because other people will not find happiness in just the way they do. Apparently such people would rather see their friends poisoned by that which is meat to themselves than fed by that which happens to be their poison.

One woman in my acquaintance never fails to introduce into every talk I have with her a petulant criticism of the way in which one of her girlhood friends finds happiness: "I really don't see how Janet can be happy way out in the country, out of touch with everything," is the burden of her plaint: "I think it is outrageous for her to bury herself like that."

Now Janet is fond of country life and is undoubtedly very happy, and yet I do not doubt that if her critic had the ordering of things, she would force the city life, which is meat to herself, upon her friend, to whom it would probably be poison.

One girl can not understand how another girl is willing to wear cheap and unattractive clothes and go without all the little day to day luxuries for the sake of taking some expensive trip once a year; and the criticised one in her turn complains because her critic spends most of her alary on pretty clothes and lesser luxuries and can never afford to indulge in travel.

Again Mrs. R. is always telling anyone who will listen how foolish it is for the S's to keep a maid when it is evident by the simplicity of their clothes and their general manner of living that they can not afford it. As a matter of actual fact, the services of a maid are necessary to the continued health of the little house-mother, and consequently the family consider the money well spent, even if it does necessitate scrimping in some other directions.

As it happens, the S's are not the kind of people who are fretted when they see other folks finding happiness in some direction other than their own, and so they do not return the criticism, but there are people who frequently declare that they can not see how the R's can be happy in such a cooped up apartment, even if it is in the most fashionable part of the city.

Love affairs always bring forth a perfect deluge of such criticism. We can not understand what she sees in him; or if he happens to suit us, we can not make out how he should be satisfied with her.

And so it goes—we can not be content to want what we want and try to get it; we also want everyone else to want it and think they are in some way lacking if they do not.

And yet, stop to think a moment. If you could, would you have things different? Would you want everyone to think alike? Wouldn't that soon become monotonous? Of course it would. And inconvenient into the bargain, when the law of supply and demand began to work. Suppose you remember this the next time you feel inclined to criticise your neighbor's way of being happy, and try to be content with choosing your own happiness.

People Forget He's In Business.

The time when a merchant can sit in his store and make a success selling goods depending on the fact that "the people all know that he is there" is passed in this country. People are changing and with the change of people comes new conditions. Because a man has been in business in a community for twenty or thirty years is no sign that he can do business the people know him and know he is in business. People demand to know what a merchant has for sale and at what price it can be bought. The only way for a merchant to tell the people what he has, at what price the article can be bought and the location of his store is through the medium of the newspaper. People whose trade is worth while cannot and will not—they are too busy—stop and read a sign on a fence or shade tree but secure in their homes around the family fireside or on the front porch they will read the message of the live merchant and go there to see what he has and buy. When he gives out a message—like a political party—he must carry out the promises in his platform. No merchant need think of making a success these days without a liberal amount of advertising in the newspaper.

When the tongue of trade is coated, when the eyes and limbs of the clerk are dull and languid, when the raging fever tackles the empty vitals of the till, when the spider roosts in the cashbox, and bouquets of decay are on the chandeliers, it is conclusive that the advertising doctor has not been consulted.

What Foods Weigh.

It may be convenient to know that one quart of flour weighs one pound; a quart of cornmeal, one pound and two ounces; a quart of best sugar, one pound; a quart of powdered white sugar, one pound and one ounce; a quart of best brown sugar, one pound and two ounces; that ten eggs weigh one pound, though this depends somewhat on the size; sixteen large tablespoons make half a pint; a quart of butter, one pound and one ounce.

To Wash Chamois Leather.

Make a weak solution of soap and warm water. Rub plenty of soft soap into the leather and let it soak for two hours, then rub it till quite clean. Afterward rinse it well in a weak solution of warm water, soda and yellow soap. After rinsing wring it well in a rough towel, dry quickly and pull about till quite soft. It will then be better than most new leathers.

Says She—You are positively awfully smart.
Says He—Yes, I know it! I seem to go at everything backward.—Philadelphia Press.

Illustrated Phrase.



Going against the grain.—Chicago Journal.

What Four States Meet.

The United States is the only country in the world that has a "four corners," that is to say, a place where four states meet. Look at your atlas and you will see Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona touching each other. At no other place on the globe do four states, territories or provinces unite to form such a junction.

The spot is on a spur of the Carizo mountain, and few tourists visit it, because it is not easily accessible and partly because comparatively few people think about it. Monument marks it, however, erected by the government surveyors. The point is reached by a trail leading from the road from the Navajo Springs in Colorado, in the Ute reservation, to the San Juan river.

The Barber's Pole.

How many of you can tell why a barber has a red and white striped pole as a sign? In the olden time barbers were also surgeons in a small way, particularly in the operation of bleeding. To assist the operation it was necessary for the patient to grasp a staff, and the barber always kept one ready, as well as strips of cloth for bandaging the patient's arm. When the staff was not in use the bandage was tied to it so that they might be together when wanted, and the barber usually hung them at his door as a sign. In the course of time, however, a painted pole took the place at the door of the one used in the operation, and thus came the sign.

Alice Knew.



Edith—I don't know what it is that draws me to that fellow Huggerty.
Alice—I do. It's his arm.

The Bird of Death.

New Guinea is the abode of the most wonderful feathered creature known to the student of ornithology—the awful rpir n'doob, or "bird of death." The venom of this bird is more deadly than that of any serpent except the cobra. In fact, no antidote for the bite of the creature is known. A wound from its beak causes excruciating pains in every part of the body, loss of sight, speech and hearing, convulsions, lockjaw and certain death.

Related to a Goose's Egg.

A Hungarian blacksmith recently sent as a present to the emperor of Austria a horseshoe, a pair of pinchers, a file and a knife, all ingeniously nailed to a goose's egg without the egg being broken. The emperor sent in return his photograph, a gold medal and 30 ducats.

It Was New to the Bishop.

At an unusually large dinner party, where the guest of honor was an English bishop, the butler, an elderly man, was obliged to bring in from a friend's house an inexperienced lad to help him in the dining room. The awkward helper annoyed the butler beyond endurance with questions as to his duties.

He continued interminably until the butler, worn out and nervous, said ironically:

"All you will need to do is to stand behind the bishop's chair, and whenever his lordship puts down his glass you must reach over and wipe his mouth with a napkin."

That silenced his assistant. But the young man actually took the order seriously, and as soon as dinner began he stationed himself behind the bishop, waited till his lordship had drunk and put down his glass, and then, as deliberately as his nervousness would permit, he opened out a large napkin and wiped the dignified old gentleman's mouth!

DISTANCE OF THE STARS.

How Astronomers Set About the Task of Measuring It.

With the exception of a hundred stars at most, we know nothing of the distances of the individual stars. What is the cause of this state of things? It is owing to the fact that we have two eyes that we are enabled not only to perceive the direction in which external objects are situated, but to get an idea of their distance, to localize them in space. But this power is rather limited. For distances exceeding some hundreds of yards it utterly fails. The reason is that the distance between the eyes as compared with the distance to be evaluated becomes too small. Instruments have been devised by which the distance between the eyes is, as it were, artificially increased. With a good instrument of this sort distances of several miles may be evaluated. For still greater distances we may imagine each eye replaced by a photographic plate. Even this would be quite sufficient for one of the heavenly bodies—viz, for the moon.

At one and the same moment let a photograph of the moon and the surrounding stars be taken both at the Cape observatory and at the Royal observatory at Greenwich. Placing the two photographs side by side in the stereoscope, we shall clearly see the moon "hanging in space" and may evaluate its distance.

But for the sun and the nearest planets, our next neighbors in the universe after the moon, the difficulty recommences.

The reason is that any available distance on the earth, taken as eye distance, is rather small for the purpose. However, owing to incredible perseverance and skill of several observers and by substituting the most refined measurement for stereoscopic examination, astronomers have succeeded in overcoming the difficulty for the sun. I think we may say that at present we know its distance to within a thousandth part of its amount. Knowing the sun's distance, we get that of all the planets by a well known relation existing between the planetary distances.

But now for the fixed stars, which must be hundreds of thousands of times farther removed than the sun. There evidently can be no question of any sufficient eye distance on our earth. Meanwhile our success with the sun has provided us with a new eye distance, 24,000 times greater than any possible eye distance on the earth, for now that we know the distance at which the sun travels in its orbit around the sun we can take the diameter of its orbit as our eye distance. Photographs taken at periods six months apart will represent the stellar world as seen from points the distance between which is already best expressed in the time it would take light to traverse it. The time would be about sixteen minutes.

However, even this distance, immense as it is, on the whole, is inadequate for obtaining a stereoscopic view of the stars. It is only in quite exceptional cases that photographs on a large scale—that is, obtained by the aid of big telescopes—show any stereoscopic effect for fixed stars. By accurate measurement of the photos we may perhaps get somewhat beyond what we can attain by simple stereoscopic inspection; but, as we said a moment ago, astronomers have not succeeded in this way in determining the distance of more than a hundred stars in all.—Scientific American.

Lazy Birds.

The "mound fowls" of Australia and New Guinea construct mounds of decayed leaves for their nests. In these the eggs are laid and covered over with the same material. The warmth engendered by the decomposition of the leaves causes the eggs to hatch, and the young in due time burrow their way out to life and the open air. These birds are regarded as the laziest of all the feathered kingdom. Next to them come the common blackbirds of America for laziness. These blackbirds never build nests of their own, but lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and leave them to be hatched by foster mothers. This is an unfortunate imposition on the smaller birds, as the blackbird's young is so large when first hatched that he soon crowds the smaller birds out of the nest and has it all to himself.